

**Economic and Social Council**

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Agenda item 14 (g)

Social and human rights questions: human rights**Draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations****Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its forty-second and forty-third sessions**

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-second and forty-third sessions,¹ and the request contained therein for an additional session of the Committee, followed by pre-sessional working groups of one week's duration, in Geneva, in both 2011 and 2012,

Concerned at the persistent backlog of reports of State parties awaiting consideration, and that the existing working methods and meeting arrangements for the Committee no longer permit it to fully discharge its responsibilities under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 in an efficient and timely manner, and recognizing that the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ would increase the workload of the Committee,

Taking note of the note submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the evaluation of the use of additional meeting time by the human rights treaty bodies,⁴ the increasing workload of the treaty bodies and the increasing number of requests from them for more meeting time,

1. *Requests* the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to improve the efficiency of its working methods, including with a view to further harmonizing its working methods with the other treaty bodies, and in the light of its

¹ E/2010/22.

² See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ See General Assembly resolution 63/117, annex.

⁴ A/65/317.



activities in this regard, requests the Chair of the Committee to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in July 2011 on the steps taken by the Committee to improve its efficiency, to allow the Council to make a decision on means to address the Committee's backlog of State party reports, including, if necessary, through the granting of additional time as a temporary measure;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session concrete and tailored proposals on the human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, building on the work of the Secretary-General pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 9/8 of 24 September 2008⁵ and of the treaty bodies in this regard, to improve their effectiveness and to identify efficiencies in their working methods and resource requirements in order better to manage their workloads, bearing in mind budgetary constraints and taking account of the varying burdens on each treaty body.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/63/53/Add.1).*